

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for manipulating a digital image comprising:
  - identifying an image for processing at a local client computer;
  - sending the image to a remote server;
  - manipulating either locally or remotely parameters associated with the image without modifying the image itself; and
  - synchronizing the local client computer and the remote server including updating metadata for one of the local client computer and the remote server using metadata of the other.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the synchronizing step includes updating local client software for manipulating the image.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the manipulating step includes manipulating a proxy image associated with the image.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the proxy image is a lower resolution image than the image.
5. The method of claim 3 wherein the proxy image is a higher resolution image than the image.
6. The method of claim 3 wherein the step of manipulating the proxy image includes creating metadata describing the manipulations to the image, applying the metadata to the proxy image and displaying the modified proxy image.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the manipulating step includes displaying to the user a modified image including
  - a. selecting between the image and a proxy image, the proxy image being a lower resolution copy of the original image,
  - b. modifying the selected image in accordance with the manipulation parameters, and
  - c. displaying the modified selected image.
8. The method of claim 1 further comprising storing the metadata as a file associated with the image at each of the local client computer and the remote server.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein the metadata includes rotation information.
10. The method of claim 1 wherein the metadata includes cropping information.

1 11. The method of claim 1 wherein the metadata includes user interface state  
2 information.

1 12. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of manipulating the parameters  
2 includes capturing state information defining a state of the manipulations at a predefined time  
3 and selecting a previous state at the request of the user.

1 13. The method of claim 12 further comprising capturing a history of the state  
2 information and selecting any of the previous states without traversing back through each  
3 intermediary state in the history.

1 14. The method of claim 1 wherein the parameter that can be manipulated can be  
2 selected from image parameters, account parameters and order parameters.

1 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the image parameters include the state of the  
2 user interface.

1 16. The method of claim 14 wherein the image parameters include image archival  
2 information.

1 17. The method of claim 14 wherein the image parameters include annotation  
2 information.

1 18. The method of claim 14 wherein the image parameters include backprint  
2 information.

1 19. The method of claim 14 wherein the image parameters include order  
2 information.

1 20. The method of claim 19 wherein the order information includes pricing  
2 information.

1 21. The method of claim 14 wherein the image parameters includes archival  
2 information.

1 22. The method of claim 14 further comprising defining a personal template that  
2 describes a particular configuration for the parameters for a given image and wherein the  
3 image parameters includes an identifier pointing to the personal template.

1 23. The method of claim 14 wherein the account parameters include verification  
2 data for the client.

1 24. The method of claim 14 wherein the order parameters includes envelope  
2 information.

1           25.     The method of claim 1 wherein the synchronization step is bi-directional.

1           26.     The method of claim 1 wherein the synchronization step includes  
2           Checking for conflicts between metadata stored at the local client computer and the  
3           remote server; and

4           Upon detecting a conflict, alerting the user to the conflict.

1           27.     The method of claim 26 further comprising receiving a selection from the user  
2           regarding the client and synchronizing the local client computer and remote sever in  
3           accordance with the selection.

1           28.     The method of claim 26 further comprising storing two different states of the  
2           metadata at each of the local client computer and the remote server, one for each of the  
3           conflicting parameters.

1           29.     The method of claim 26 wherein the step of alerting the user includes  
2           displaying a dialog box to the user from which a selection can be made.

1           30.     The method of claim 1 further comprising storing on the local client computer  
2           a printer output file including profiles for different printers available through the remote  
3           server, wherein the step of manipulating the parameters includes displaying a modified  
4           version of the original image in accordance with the manipulated parameters and using an  
5           output profile for a printer on which the image is to be outputted when transferred to the  
6           remote server.

1           31.     The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying on both the local client  
2           computer and the remote server a similar image metaphor for manipulating the original  
3           image.

1           32.     The method of claim 1 wherein the image metaphor includes an envelope for  
2           dropping selected images into when ordering.

1           33.     The method of claim 1 further comprising prompting the user to experience a  
2           new remote server function including loading a copy of a tool onto the local client computer  
3           during the synchronization step and displaying an icon in the user interface that alerts the  
4           user to the new functionality and includes a link to the local copy of the tool to allow the user  
5           to manipulate an image using the new functionality.

34. The method of claim 1 further comprising storing metadata describing the manipulations without modifying the image, the metadata being stored at the computer, either the local client or the remote server, where the manipulating step is performed.

35. The method of claim 1 wherein the local client computer is selected from the group of PDA, portable computer, kiosk, fax machine, digital camera and docking station.

36. The method of claim 1 wherein the connection between the local client computer and remote server is wireless.

37. The method of claim 1 wherein the synchronization step occurs at a next open session between the local client computer and the remote server.

38. The method of claim 1 wherein the synchronization step occurs at the end of current session between the local client computer and the remote server.

39. The method of claim 1 wherein the synchronization step occurs in real time between the local client computer and remote server.

40. The method of claim 1 wherein the parameters include print parameters.

41. The method of claim 40 wherein the parameters include print calibration parameters.

42. The method of claim 1 wherein the parameters include display parameters.

43. A method for distributing image editing, review and ordering functions among system resources in an image-processing system, the image-processing system including a local client computer and a remote server, the method comprising:

Determining if a session is open between the local client computer and the remote server;

Capturing, at the client computer when the session is closed, metadata describing any manipulations by the user of an image;

Capturing, at the remote server when the session is opened, metadata describing manipulations of the image by the user; and

Synchronizing the metadata captured at each of the local client computer and the remote server when the session is open.

44. A method for distributing image editing, review and ordering functions among system resources in an image-processing system, the image-processing system including a local client computer and a remote server, the method comprising:

Dividing image management, archival, and printing functions among the local client computer and the remote server including performing image management at either of the local client computer and the remote server, and performing image archive and printing functions at the remote server; and

Synchronizing image management data between the local client computer and the remote server.

45. An apparatus for manipulating a digital image comprising:

Client software for executing on a local client computer including instructions for identifying an original image for processing at the local client computer, uploading the original image to a remote server, receiving a user selection to locally or remotely process the original image;

if local processing is selected, locally manipulating parameters associated with the original image including storing, on the local client computer, metadata describing the manipulations without modifying the original image,

if remote processing is selected, opening a session with the remote server; and

Remote server software for executing on the remote server including instructions for receiving the original image, manipulating parameters associated with the original image in accordance with instructions received from the local processor

storing metadata describing the manipulations without modifying the original image, and

at each session between the local client computer and the remote server, synchronizing the local client computer and the remote server including updating metadata for one of the local client computer and the remote server using metadata of the other.